

**TALES OF WONDER;
WRITTEN AND
COLLECTED. IN TWO
VOLUMES. VOL. II**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649717965

Tales of Wonder; Written and Collected. In Two Volumes. Vol. II by M. G. Lewis

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M. G. LEWIS

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TALES OF WONDER;

WRITTEN AND COLLECTED

BY

M. G. LEWIS, ESQ., M. P.

AUTHOR OF THE MONK, CASTLE SPECTRE, LOVE OF GAIN, ETC.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

Black spirits and white,
Blue spirits and grey,
Mingle, mingle, mingle,
You that mingle may!

MACBETH.

DUBLIN :

Printed by *Williams Porter,*

FOR P. WOGAN, G. BURNET, W. PORTER, J. MOORE, W. JONES, B. DUG-
DALE, J. RICE, S. DORNIN, G. FOLINGSBY, T. JACKSON,
N. KELLY, J. STOCKDALE, AND J. FARRY.

1801.

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No. XXXIII.

TAM O'SHANTER.

ROBERT BURMS.

WHEN chapman billies ¹ leave the street,
And drouthy ² neebors, ³ neebors meet,
As market-days are wearing late,
An' ⁴ folk begin to tak the gate ; ⁵
While we sit boufing ⁶ at the nappy,
An' getting fou ⁷ and unco ⁸ happy,
We think na ⁹ on the lang ¹⁰ Scots miles,
The mosses, waters, slaps, ¹¹ and styles,
That lie between us and our hame, ¹²
Whare ¹³ fits our sulky fullen dame,

¹ *Billies*, brothers.

² *Neebors*, neighbours.

³ *Tak the gate*, return home.

⁴ *Fou*, drunk.

⁵ *Na*, not.

⁶ *Slaps*, gates, or breaches in fences.

⁷ *Whare*, where.

⁸ *Drouthy*, thirsty.

⁹ *An'*, and.

¹⁰ *Boufing*, drinking.

¹¹ *Unco*, very.

¹² *Lang*, long.

¹³ *Hame*, home.

Gathering her brows like gathering storm,
Nursing her wrath to keep it warm.

This truth fand ¹ honest Tam O'Shanter,
As he frae ² Ayr ae ³ night did canter,
(Auld ⁴ Ayr wham ⁵ ne'er a town surpasses,
For honest men and bonny ⁶ lassies.)

O Tam! had'ft thou but been sae ⁷ wise,
As ta'en thy ain ⁸ wife Kate's advice!
She tauld ⁹ thee weel ¹⁰ thou was a skellum,¹¹
A blethering,¹² blustering, drunken blellum;
That frae November till October,
Ae market-day thou was nae ¹³ sober;
That ilka ¹⁴ melder, wi' ¹⁵ the miller,
Thou fat as lang as thou had siller;¹⁶
That every naig ¹⁷ was ca'd ¹⁸ a shoe on,
The smith and thee gat roaring fou on;
That at the L——d's house, even on Sunday,
Thou drank wi' Kirkton Jean till Monday.

¹ *Fand*, found.

² *Ae*, one.

³ *Wham*, whom.

⁴ *Sae*, so.

⁵ *Tauld*, told.

⁶ *Skellum*, a rogue.

⁷ *Nae*, never.

⁸ *Wi*, with.

⁹ *Naig*, a horse.

¹⁰ *Frae*, from.

¹¹ *Auld*, old.

¹² *Bonny*, or *bonnie*, handsome.

¹³ *Ain*, own.

¹⁴ *Weel*, well.

¹⁵ *Blethering*, talking idly.

¹⁶ *Ilka*, each.

¹⁷ *Siller*, money.

¹⁸ *C'ad*, nailed.

She

She prophesy'd that, late or foon, "
 Thou would be found deep drown'd in Doon ;
 Or catch'd wi' warlocks ¹ in the mirk,²
 By Alloway's auld haunted kirk.³

Ah, gentle dames ! it gars me greet,⁴
 To think how mony ⁵ counfels sweet,
 How mony lengthen'd sage advices,
 The husband frae the wife despises !

But to our tale : Ae market night,
 Tam had got planted unco-right ;
 Fast by an ingle,⁶ bleezing ⁷ finely,
 Wi' reaming fwats,⁸ that drank divinely ;
 And at his elbow, Souter ⁹ Johnny,
 His ancient, trusty, drouthy crony ;¹⁰
 Tam lo'ed him like a vera brither ;¹¹
 They had been fou for weeks thegither.¹²
 The night drave ¹³ on wi' sangs and clatter ;¹⁴
 And ay the ale was growing better :

¹ Warlock, a wizard.

² Kirk, church.

³ Mony, many.

⁴ Bleezing, burning.

⁵ Souter, a shoemaker.

⁶ Vera brither, very brother.

⁷ Drave, passed.

⁸ Mirk, dark.

⁹ Gars me greet, makes me weep.

¹⁰ Ingle, fire.

¹¹ Reaming fwats, a sort of liquor.

¹² Crony, or cranie, an old acquaintance.

¹³ Thegither, together.

¹⁴ Sangs and clatter, songs and discourse.

The landlady and Tam grew gracious,
 Wi' favours, secret, sweet, and precious :
 The fouter tauld his queereft stories ;
 The landlord's laugh was ready chorus :
 The storm without might rair ¹ and ruffle,
 Tam did na mind the storm a whistle.

Care, mad to see a man fae happy,
 E'en drown'd himself amang ² the nappy,
 As bees flee hame wi' lades ³ o' ⁴ treasure,
 The minutes wing'd their way wi' pleasure :
 Kings may be blefs'd, but Tam was glorious,
 O'er a' ⁵ the hills o' life victorious !

But pleasures are like poppies spread,
 You seize the flower, its bloom is shed ;
 Or like the snow falls in the river,
 A moment white—then melts for ever ;
 Or like the borealis race,
 That flit ere you can point their place ;
 Or like the rainbow's lovely form,
 Evanishing amid the storm.—
 Nae man can tether ⁶ time or tide ;
 The hour approaches Tam maun ⁷ ride ;
 That hour, o' night's black arch the key-stane,
 That dreary hour he mounts his beast in ;

¹ Rair, roar.

² Amang, among.

³ Lades, loads.

⁴ O', of.

⁵ A', all.

⁶ Tether, tie.

⁷ Maun, must.

And